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Religious and Charitable Endowments

Election of Mr. P. V. Nataraja Mudaliyar as a Member of the Madras Corporation.

* 553 Q.—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether Mr. P. V. Nataraja Mudaliyar, one of the Commissioners of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board, is an elected member of the Madras Corporation; and

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, whether he has obtained the sanction of the Government under sub-section (1) of section 14 of the Hindu Religious Endowments Act of 1927?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) He addressed the Government before he stood for election in 1925 and he was informed that there was no objection to his standing.

Excise

Privilege of licensing boards to municipalities.

* 554 Q.—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) why the Government have restricted the privilege of licensing boards only to municipalities with a population of above 50,000;

(b) why it was found necessary to fix a minimum beyond which the number of shops should not be reduced by the licensing boards during the whole course of their official career;

(c) whether the Government have received a representation from the Health Association, Nandyal, requesting that all municipalities should have the privilege of a licensing board; and

(d) what action the Government propose to take thereon?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to the report of the Excise Advisory Committee which was placed on the table of the House and to the orders thereon contained in G.O. No. 1576, Revenue, dated 17th September 1926, which was placed on the Editors' Table.

(c) & (d) The Government have not received any representations from the Health Association, Nandyal, concerning the formation of licensing boards in all the municipalities.

Fisheries

Alleged defective condition of the fishing trawler "Lady Goschen."

* 555 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the fishing trawler "Lady Goschen" was lying at the Madras Harbour about 5th July 1927, and if so, for what purpose;

(b) on what expeditions it has been despatched, and what uses it has been put to since it was brought to India in various places, at what cost and with what profit or loss;

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(c) for what purpose it was primarily built before it was purchased by the Madras Government and for what special purpose it was re-fitted when purchased by them;

(d) (1) whether it was brought for undertaking pearl bank inspection, deep-sea fishing and research, (2) whether it is not sufficiently equipped for these purposes as stated in the article "Deep Sea Fishing" in the *Madras Mail* dated 4th July 1927, and (3) if so, in what ways it is defective, and (4) who must be held responsible for the defects; and

(e) whether the hon. the Minister will be pleased to place before the House a statement showing (1) the expenditure and receipts in connexion with this fishing trawler "Lady Goschen," from the beginning up to date, (2) the original estimate of its price, the variations in the price from time to time and the grounds on which they were based?

A.—(*a*) Yes. The main purpose for which the trawler was brought to Madras was for conducting deep-sea fishing experiments and for obtaining estimates from local firms for building cabins, making alterations, etc.

(*b*) (i) The trawler was engaged on salt transport to West Coast when she towed two schooners loaded with 6,499 bags of salt from Tuticorin to the West Coast. A saving of over 550 rupees resulted from this as compared with the cost of transport if undertaken by a contractor;

(ii) She was engaged in deep-sea fishing experiments on a small scale off Calicut on 24th January 1927 and off Manapaud (Tuticorin) on 3rd April 1927. The total expenditure on the two experiments was roughly Rs. 142-6-0 as against Rs. 106-7-0 realized as sale-proceeds of fish caught; and

(iii) She was also engaged on pearl fishery work from 26th March 1927 to 30th April 1927. If she had not been utilized for this purpose, a sum of Rs. 21,600 would have been paid as hire charges for a private vessel of the type of the trawler at Rs. 600 per day while the charges for the trawler for the 36 days she was engaged on pearl fishery duty was only Rs. 6,709-8-0.

(*c*) No information is available as to the purpose for which the trawler was built before it was purchased by this Government. The vessel was reconditioned and refitted by the Stores Department of the High Commissioner to make her suitable for deep-sea fishing in the tropics.

(*d*) (1) It was brought for undertaking deep-sea fishing, research, pearl bank inspection and salt transport.

(2) No.

(3) & (4) (i) Her fishing gear is not in order and the matter is under investigation.

(ii) She has not got proper cabins suitable for the tropics; and

(iii) No laboratory on board for research work. It was intended to construct these only after the arrival of the vessel in India.

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(iv) It has been found from experience that the vessel also requires to be fitted with a cold store for keeping fish fresh till they are brought ashore for the market. It was only recently a decision was possible as to whether a cold store should be fitted on board or not.

(e) (1) The following statement gives the information :—

	RS.
Capital expenditure	1,04,589
Repairs to boiler tubes	7,806
Cost of gear	1,408
	1,13,803

	RS.
Running charges for the trawler up to 31st July 1927.	57,587

Receipts—	RS.	A.	P.
Deep-sea fishing	128	15	3

(2) The High Commissioner originally estimated the cost of the trawler at £4,000 and the Admiralty when approached in the matter demanded £4,500; but as the result of some negotiation, the Director-General of Stores was able to secure a reduction to £3,000.

Prohibition of the capture of sword fishes in coastal towns.

* 556 Q.—Rao Sahib R. SRINIVASAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that cholera broke out in the coastal towns of Southern India whenever the season for capture of sword fishes came; and

(b) whether the Government propose to prohibit capturing of sword fishes in the sea water, bringing them to any of the shores of the Madras Province, and selling them for human food?

A.—(a) No.

(b) Sword fishes are rarely caught and are not so far known to cause any epidemic.

Medical

Aid to village panchayats for maintaining dispensaries.

* 557 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) how many applications have been made by village panchayats since the passing of Act XV of 1920 for aid to maintain—

(i) Ayurvedic dispensaries;
(ii) English dispensaries;

(b) how many of them have been granted such applications; and
(c) how many have been rejected and for what reasons?